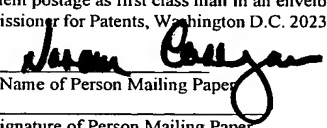


10/070282  
Rec'd PST/PTC 15 APR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
DESIGNATED AND ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

International Application No.: PCT/US00/24142  
Filing Date.: September 1, 2000  
Application No.: PCT/US00/24142  
For: QUATERNARY AMMONIUM SALTS  
AS THICKENING AGENTS FOR  
AQUEOUS SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.	
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Signature of Person Mailing Paper	

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified International patent application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On the first page, after the title, insert:

—The benefit of copending U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/152,662, filed September 7, 1999 is hereby claimed—.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please substitute for original claims 1 and 5 the following rewritten version of claims 1 and 5 as amended. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

1. (amended) An aqueous based fluid in oil field applications comprising:
  - a) at least one cationic surfactant having the following general structure: